THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) The modernisation and upgradation of the equipment and weaponry of the Armed Forces is an on ongoing process.

(b) and (c). This year as well, as in previous years, an exercise was undertaken to determine the priorities for modernisation and the funds required. For this purpose, the changing threat scenario, advancement of technology, global and regional security environment as also the resources available are taken into account. These were duly projected to the Ministry of Finance to enable it to allocate funds keeping in view the available resources, the demands of different sectors of the economy, as well as the projected security concerns. It will not be in the national security interest to divulge the details of the modernisation and upgradation plans.

Foreign Participation in University Education

3822. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.G.C. Chairperson recently has made a statement regarding foreign participation in University education;

(b) if so, whether this was done after consultation with the academic community;

(c) whether the Government are taking any measures to resolve the resource crunch in the U.G.C.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), the Chairperson, UGC, while inaugurating the Round Table on 'University Management' for Vice-Chancellors at Himachal Pradesh University on 13.6.96, made a general statement/observation that in wake of liberalisation process, the Indian University system is likely to face competition from foreign universities who would be coming forward to offer their programmes to the Indian students. This observation was intended to forewarn the VCs to gear up for the impending challenge.

(c) and (d). Plan and Non-Plan grants provided by the Government to UGC have been steadily increasing over the years. An outlay of Rs. 612.38 crore has been allocated to UGC for the 8th Plan as against a sum of Rs. 576.01 crore provided in the 7th Plan.

Declaration of National Highways

3823. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare State roads as National Highways in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details with locations thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government of Gujarat has sent any proposals for declaring new National Highways in the State; and

(e) if so, the current status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (e). Even though proposals to declare some State roads in Gujarat as National Highways have been received, it has not been possible to do so due to paucity of funds.

Strengthening of National Highways

3824. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways proposed to be strengthened in the country in the current financial year, State and U.T. wise;

(b) the total expenditure proposed to be incurred for this purpose; and

(c) the criteria of selecting the National Highways in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) A statement is annexed.

(b) A total of 346 km of National Highways at a cost of Rs. 101.90 crore is proposed to be strengthened, as per Annual Plan 1996-97.

(c) Stretches for strengthening are selected from qualifying kilometers beased on their condition, traffic intensity, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

STATEMENT

Name of National Highways to be strengthened in States/ U.Ts. during 1996-97

Name of State/U.T.	Name of National Highway(s)
Andhra Pradesh	5, 18, 16
Assam	31 (B), 52
Bihar	23, 28 (A), 2, 33
Delhi	2
Goa	17
Gujarat	8
Haryana	10
Himachal Pradesh	20, 21
Karnataka	4 (A), 4
Kerala	47
Madhya Pradesh	25, 16, 12, 26, 3 & 7
Maharashtra	17, 50, 3, 4, 6 & 9
Manipur	39
Orissa	5, 42, 6
Punjab	21, 15 & 10
Rajasthan	12, 8
Tamil Nadu	7, 7 (A), 45, 46 & 47
Uttar Pradesh	24, 19 & 2
West Bengal	35, 55, 2 & 34

Tuberculosis

3825. DR. VALLABHA BHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE: be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware the increases of Tuberculosis patients in India;

(b) if so, the number of T.B. patients in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise?

(c) the reasons for failure of T.B. control programmes;

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to control this disease;

(e) whether the Government have fixed any criteria for screening the T.B. cases;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(g) whether some people died due to T.B. and Cancer in the Jamnagar district of Gujarat during the last three years; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b). Available reports do not indicate any significant increase in the annual number of TB patients. A statement showing the number of patients in the country during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) As per a review conducted in 1992 by a Review Committee, the reasons for not achieving desired results are: less than 30% treatment completion, inadequate budgetary outlay shortage of drugs, undue emphasis on x-ray diagnosis, poor quality of sputum microscopy and multiplicity of treatment regiments by health providers.

(d) to (f). The Government has decided to launch Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme all over the country in a phased manner. The salient features of the strategy are treatment with effective Short Course Chemotherapy durgs under direct observation of health workers supplied free of cost, improved quality of diagnosis close supervision and monitoring training of all categories of personnel, involvement of NGOs and more vigorous information, education and communication.

It is hoped to achieve at least 85% cure rate amongst cases detected under the programme following the revised strategy.

(g) and (h). No. Sir.

STATEMENT

The States & Union Territory-wise detection of new TB cases during the year 1993-94 to 1994-95

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	1993-94 cases detected	1994-95 cases detected	1995-96 cases detected
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64,369	68,111	65,999
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3,199	3,567	3,295